

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Vietnam

6814. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement is likely to be signed between India and Vietnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Settlement of Dues by Egypt

6815. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item regarding Egypt's agreement to settle all outstanding dues in favour of India appearing in "The Financial Express" dated March 19, 1992; and

(b) if so, the facts regarding matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of Indian companies exported equipment/material to certain Egyptian public sector companies in the Arab Republic of Egypt under a deferred payment facility for which ECGC had provided insurance cover. The Central Bank of Egypt

stopped release of Foreign exchange in October, 1985, for such payments due to difficult foreign exchange position. The Egyptian public sector companies, however kept depositing local currency with their bankers as and when the instalment fell due. In the meanwhile, in India ECGC paid to the Indian parties, the insured amounts. The Central Bank of Egypt has now finally approved the remittance of these blocked funds amounting to approximately US \$ 3.7 million in full. The Government of India is pleased at this outcome and appreciative of the Egyptian gesture, which is in keeping with the friendly relations between India and Egypt.

As regards the other two outstanding dues mentioned in the news item, the question of settlement of the balance of Rs. 7.6 crores outstanding since the termination of the Rupee Trade Agreement is still under discussion while the Indian Oil Corporation's claims on the Egyptian General Authority of Petroleum have been referred to the Arbitration Court of the International Chamber of Commerce and the award of the court is awaited.

Selection of Stenographers in ICAR

6816. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4690 on March 26, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is fact that as a result of malpractices some of the candidates who qualified in the examination, could not be appointed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government would reconsider their cases for appointment in ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (c). Sir, out of 20 candidates, who qualified in the examination, appointment could not be offered to two for want of vacancies. The validity of the panel has already expired and recruitment is now made through the Staff Selection Commission.

Contracts for Supply of Petroleum Products

6817. **SHRI AL BAHADUR RAWAL:**
Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether one Government Company of Malaysia had been given term contract for supply of petroleum products at a much higher rate as compared to other Government Companies, thereby resulting in a loss of several million dollars;

(b) whether again recently substantial quantity was increased for this company causing further loss to our country;

(c) the names of the Companies with whom Government have term contracts and their rates for products supply to India; and

(d) whether there is an attempt also to give long term contracts to private companies or semi-Government Companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (c). Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have entered into a term contract with PETCO for the supply of 1.49 MMT of petroleum products. This quantity was not increased subsequently. During 1991-92 IOC had term contracts with M/s. BANOCO, ADNOC, SNE, SINOCEM and PETCO for supply of petroleum products. The prices for each term contract are negotiated separately and are different.

(d) No such decision has been taken.

Indian Council of World Affairs

6818. **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:**
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deteriorating conditions of the world renowned library of the Indian Council of World Affairs;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in that regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to take over the management of the Council to improve its functioning,

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are also aware of the deteriorating living conditions of its staff; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government are considering various measures for revitalising the functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

(e) and (f). Government have received representations from the Council's employees in this regard. Government hopes that the present management of the Council will take appropriate steps in this matter.